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LONDON BASKETBALL FANS ARE ELATED THAT MVP GABE FREEMAN IS BACK WITH THE LIGHTNING — AND THE FEELING IS MUTUAL

PAGE 13

Shock value

London police Chief Brad Duncan welcomes Tuesday's announcement that Ontario cops can now use Tasers, saying lives will be saved PAGE 2

Scarface revisited

A Canadian documentary crew seeks to unearth the truth about Al Capone's capers in 'Little Chicago' — a.k.a. Moose Jaw PAGE 4

U.S. poised for strike on Syria

The White House makes its case for military action after the apparent chemical attack last week PAGE 5

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Firefighters' contract demands really not 'that much': Union

John Hassan, head of the London Professional Firefighters Association, says the city's proposal to settle a union contract would put the public at risk. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Contract arbitration. Asking for wage parity with police, but the city is mulling outsourcing emergency services

SCOTT TAYLOR
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Safety could be in jeopardy if the city gets its way, the head of the London firefighters union is warning.

The sides are embroiled in interest arbitration because they haven't been able to agree on a new contract since the previous one ended on Dec. 31, 2010.

John Hassan, who has said he doesn't want to fight the arbitration battle in public, felt compelled on Tuesday to respond to recent remarks by city officials that first-responders' salaries are soaring far beyond affordability.

The raise firefighters want is just what the city's police officers earned in their latest contract — an increase of 11.64 per cent over four years.

The big picture the city is promoting is an increase of millions of dollars a year in increased salaries. But Hassan would rather people consider what it would mean to them directly.

"Through the life of the four-year contract, the cost of the city's fire department would rise from 80 to about 83 cents a day on the average property assessment," he told Metro. "That doesn't seem like that much for someone calling 911 and hoping we'll be there quickly for them."

The current cost of 80 cents a day is based on the city's numbers in its 2013 budget.

On Tuesday morning, Mayor Joe Fontana said the city can't keep up with rising salaries and questioned the traditional claim by firefighters that they should be paid the same as police officers.

"The jobs are different," he said. "Traditionally, they got what police got, but they're two different jobs. So we've raised the issue of whether there should be parity."

Hassan countered: "That's not what he said when he was trying to get elected.

"He loved getting his picture taken with us then."

Firefighters, Hassan added, do more than enter burning buildings. "We're on the scene at accidents pulling people from their vehicles. We answer (carbon-monoxide) alarms and perform rescues on land and water. We conduct fire prevention year round and we're involved in many charities," he said. "We're a large part of the community."

Fontana confirmed that the city is exploring the notion of outsourcing city vehicles and emergency services.

Hassan said he doesn't know how safe people would feel having their 911 calls potentially picked up in a foreign country.

"Do you want to call 911 to somewhere else?" he asked. "What would be the public's perception of that? Are you comfortable risking everything on technology and hope that it always works?"

What do they want?

Firefighters are asking for the same wage increase as police officers in their most recent contract. Pay increases for police break down like this:

- **2011:** 2.98 per cent
- **2012:** 1.4 per cent on Jan. 1; and 1.4 per cent on July 1
- **2013:** 1.45 per cent on Jan. 1; and 1.3 per cent on July 1
- **2014:** 2.6 per cent
- **Compounded total:** 11.64 per cent

A scene-stealer with four wheels

Ethan Hawke and Selena Gomez are no match for this muscle car in Getaway PAGE 9

NEWS 1

It's in their genes

Med students. Brother and sister aim to carry on family tradition by becoming doctors

MIKE DONACHIE
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Keeping it in the family: Brother and sister Tehmina and Adil Ahmad began training as medical students together on Tuesday at Western University's Schulich School of Medicine. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Crisp white coats lined the chairs, ready for London's new generation of doctors.

The Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry welcomed its 171 new medical students on Tuesday in a ceremony that was tuned into thousands of years of history.

As the new Western University students lined up to take the hallowed Hippocratic Oath, Adil and Tehmina Ahmad were beaming with pride.

The London brother and sister were taking their first steps to fulfilling a family tradition — driven largely by genetics to become doctors.

Their grandfather was a physician. Their eldest uncle was the longest-serving doctor of medicine in Uganda. Their aunt is a psychiatrist in England.

Simply put, the pair knows a thing or two about the job.

"At the end of the day, it's about compassion towards humanity," Adil, 30, said.

They even have strong links to Western, thanks to their uncle Dildar Ahmad, a professor emeritus of medicine at the university.

Tehmina and Adil both have undergraduate degrees with specialties in genetics, and Adil has a master's degree in biology.

They want to be doctors for the right reasons.

Tehmina, 25, was doing community work with sex workers in London when she understood how much she wanted to help people.

"Once you realize the breadth of poverty that we do have in London, I think it's important to work towards being a physician," she said.

For Adil, it's a long-held ambition: "If I look back in my eighth-grade yearbook, it's what I put for what I wanted to be when I grew up."

They've found time for other jobs, too.

Adil worked for the Flying Monkeys Craft Brewery in Barrie and now works in Pub Milos downtown, while his sister works at Beertown on Fanshawe Park Road West.

The Schulich School received 2,500 applications for its 171 spots. The 858 scholarships currently paid to students across the school are worth a combined $4.1 million.

White coats

- Tuesday's ceremony at Western University was attended by hundreds of people: students, families, staff and supporters.
- All 171 students lined up to receive the white coats that symbolize the beginning of their training as doctors and to take the Hippocratic Oath.
- The oath, established more than 2,000 years ago, is taken by all doctors. They swear to act "for the good of the sick" and to live and work "in uprightness and honour."

Stun guns save lives: London police chief

A police-issued Taser is displayed in this file photo. THE CANADIAN PRESS

London's top cop said he fully supports the Ontario government's announcement on Tuesday allowing all police officers to carry and use stun guns.

Ontario Community Safety Minister Madeleine Meilleur said current rules that limit the use of stun guns, or Tasers as they are commonly known, will be reworked so that each police force can decide which officers should carry them.

Currently, they're limited to frontline supervisors and emergency-response units.

Chief Brad Duncan said he welcomes the news because he believes lives will be saved.

"I support it, and I'm joined by a number of chiefs in the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police," he said. "We've been wrestling with this issue for some time, and we certainly see the advantage for more strategic deployment to frontline officers."

Duncan said there are many instances in which a stun gun would be of benefit for the officer and the suspect.

"Their availability would be more useful on a number of fronts when we're dealing with individuals exhibiting violent behaviour and — I must emphasize — who are not de-escalating that behaviour," he said. "Ultimately, as police officers, we face situations where that clearly will not work and we have to resort to the use of force."

It's estimated that the average stun gun costs about $1,000. Duncan said the benefits far outweigh the costs.

"Two U.S. studies over the past five years have demonstrated a 70 per cent reduction in injury to civilians and police when they're deployed. I think that's important," he said.

Meilleur's announcement came one month after 18-year-old Sammy Yatim was shot and killed by Toronto police. The minister said that case didn't influence her decision.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

At a glance

- As of June 31, 2012, TASER International had sold about 710,000 stun guns worldwide to more than 16,880 law-enforcement and military agencies.
- More than 7,293 of these agencies deploy Tasers to all members of their patrol officers.

Source: Taser.com

C. difficile. Six cases reported at London HSC

London Health Sciences Centre has declared a C. difficile outbreak at University Hospital.

Six cases have been confirmed in a general medicine unit on the hospital's fourth floor, officials said Tuesday evening.

"We are continuing with aggressive measures to prevent further C. difficile transmission, including enhanced surveillance for case identification and enhanced environmental cleaning," said Dr. Michael John, medical director of infection prevention and control.

Visitors are being asked to "exercise extra vigilance" when it comes to hygiene, which includes using hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the hospital.

Clostridium difficile, as it's formally known, is a bacteria that causes flu-like symptoms and can lead to death.

METRO

Take Me Downtown. Lady Antebellum to make a London stop

Seven-time Grammy award-winning trio Lady Antebellum has London listed as a stop on the second leg of its Take Me Downtown Tour.

The trio will be at Budwesier Gardens on March 1. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Nov. 22. Prices have not been announced.

London's show is one of six in Canada. Other Canadian stops include Toronto (Feb. 28), Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

Lady Antebellum GETTY IMAGES

The tour's second leg kicks off Jan. 9 in West Virginia. METRO

TVDSB. Applications for Sattler's seat now being taken

Peggy Sattler has taken up her seat at Queen's Park, but now there's another seat to fill.

Sattler, elected Aug. 1 as the New Democrat MPP for London West, was a Thames Valley District School Board trustee for 13 years, but resigned following her byelection victory.

Instead of having an election, the school board has opted to seek a replacement by inviting applications for someone to see out the current term until Nov. 30, 2014.

The board's website — tvdsb.ca — has application forms or people can pick one up at their offices, at 1250 Dundas St. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Sept. 6.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Talbot and Dufferin

Beating suspect surrenders

Police say a suspect in a Sunday afternoon assault has turned himself in.

The man, identified only as a 32-year-old Londoner, made contact with police about 6 p.m. Monday, hours after investigators released his picture. Charges have not been laid, and the investigation is continuing, police said Tuesday.

The incident happened near Talbot Street and Dufferin Avenue. The victim was left with what police described as serious facial injuries. METRO

Infant abuse awareness

Ready, set, knit!

Get your needles ready.

It's a hat-trick for local knitters: the third year of the Click for Babies campaign that helps raise awareness about infant abuse by making small purple hats.

Each November, Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre gives about 500 of the homemade hats to new parents along with information packets about intense crying episodes and shaken baby syndrome.

HALEY RITCHIE/FOR METRO

Coun. Stephen Orser speaks during a council debate Tuesday night. Council decided to approve plans for a neighbourhood safety task force, but not that Orser should chair it. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Old East cameras spark hot debate

Safety. Orser misses out on chairmanship of task force — for now

MIKE DONACHIE
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Drugs, needles, crime and punishment — Old East Village's problems were in focus at city hall Tuesday night.

Not everyone supported Coun. Stephen Orser's demand for safety cameras in Old East, but everyone on the council agreed the area deserves to be safer.

Following a council vote, a neighbourhood safety task force will be set up to consider ways to fix the problems, although Old East had its defenders, notably Mayor Joe Fontana.

But the real problem was who to appoint as the saftey task leader.

Coun. Stephen Orser, the local councillor for the Old East Village, spoke about a "significant increase" in drug problems and demanded action.

"One of my constituents suggested a quote from JFK," he said before repeating it: "'There are risks and costs to a program of action but they are far less than the risks and costs of a course of comfortable action.'"

For Orser, the correct action was to allow him to chair the task force, and Coun. Joe Swan formally proposed it, paying tribute to Orser for his work in the village.

But council disagreed. Of the 15 people there, eight disagreed, and Orser's candidacy was rejected.

But council then unanimously backed the idea of a task force, which will be able to pick its own chair.

Save the trees

Council supports PenEquity plans

Councillors voted last night to support the huge PenEquity retail and cinema development at the woodlot near the 401 highway.

It was all thanks to a save-the-trees amendment by Coun. Matt Brown, with conditions to be satisfied before any trees can be cut down.

It insisted on compensation allowing for six trees to be planted for every one removed. They must be on existing woodlots that might otherwise be threatened by development, and not on streets. It also said the site's wetland must be evaluated before bulldozers go in.

Mayor Joe Fontana said it was a win for the environment and for jobs.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Paramedics to get new London home next spring

Ground was officially broken Tuesday on a new and larger EMS station in northwest London.

The station will be built on what's now an empty field on Horizon Drive behind the Costco store on Wonderland Road.

By the time it's complete next spring, it'll be twice as large as the station currently being used nearby on Oxford Street West.

Middlesex-London EMS Chief Neal Roberts said the move is necessary because of population growth and a rising number of calls for help.

"The service responds to over 40,000 emergency calls annually, 7,500 of which are assigned to, and responded from, the station at Oxford and Wonderland," he said.

The current station was built more than 25 years ago and is equipped with two bays for older-style EMS vans. The new location will feature four drive-through bays that can each fit the more modern size ambulance with no problems. It also allows room for future growth.

"There's no doubt the need has increased," Mayor Joe Fontana said, "therefore this new station will respond to those needs."

By the numbers

200+

Number of paramedics who work for Middlesex-London EMS.

London-based ESAM Group will pick up the cost of construction and lease it to the paramedics through a 15-year deal. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Transparency. Trudeau says folk are stoked that he spoke of smoke-toke

Justin Trudeau says he's received "almost universal" praise for admitting he smoked marijuana after becoming a member of Parliament.

And that certainly seemed to be the case Tuesday as the Liberal leader did a spot of mainstreeting in downtown Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Young and old seemed giddy at the prospect of meeting him. They sought his autograph or to have their picture taken; several spontaneously thanked him, as one middle-aged woman put it, "for telling the truth, Justin, no matter what."

"The conversations I've had with Canadians have almost universally been about people pleased with the level of openness and transparency that a Canadian politician is demonstrating," Trudeau said later.

Political opponents have pounced on Trudeau's confession last week that he toked up at a dinner party three years ago. They've accused him of flouting the law and demonstrating that he's unfit to govern.

On the eve of Trudeau's arrival in P.E.I. for a three-day Liberal caucus retreat, Fisheries Minister Gail Shea issued a statement contending that Islanders have told her Trudeau is setting a bad example for their children.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vox populi

"Hey Justin, wanna get baked?"

Tattooed, beer-toting and "happily unemployed" Jeff Moynagh to Trudeau, a "cool" guy he says he's likely to vote for.

People in Charlottetown, P.E.I., mobbed the Liberal leader for photos and autographs. NATHAN ROCHFORD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Uniform U.S. policy

Walmart benefits will cover partners, same-sex included

Walmart will extend its health-care benefits to its U.S. workers' domestic partners, including those of the same sex, starting Jan. 1.

The nation's largest private employer, which has been a target of attacks for what labour groups call skimpy wages and benefits, said Tuesday the changes were made so it could have one uniform policy for all 50 states at a time when some states have their own definitions of domestic partnerships and civil unions.

Walmart also announced it will be offering an optical care program next year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cronuts at the CNE

Poor refrigeration of bacon jam likely caused poisoning

An outbreak of food poisoning at the Canadian National Exhibition has been traced to the maple bacon jam topping on the cronut burger.

The likely cause of contamination was poor refrigeration, said Dr. Lisa Berger of Toronto Public Health.

"There were temperature-control issues both at the supplier and on site," she said. "The staphylococcus aureus toxin is not killed by cooking. Refrigeration prevents the bacteria from multiplying."

The investigation is now focused on Le Dolci, the jam's Toronto-based supplier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'He was a mobster, but not a monster'

Al Capone in Sask.?

Great-niece of infamous gangster comes north for new documentary

ALYSSA MCDONALD
Metro in Regina

Feeding off swirling rumours and passed-down stories about Chicago gangster Al Capone's bootleg operation in the Canadian Prairies, a Saskatchewan documentary film crew is going deep — literally — to search for proof behind the prohibition tale.

The documentary, titled Finding Al, involves historical data and assorted tales surrounding the iconic mobster's rumoured appearances in and around Moose Jaw, Sask., in the 1920s.

"I've been to the Tunnels (of Moose Jaw) many times and I just wanted to investigate it," director and producer Kelly-Anne Riess told Metro in Moose Jaw — nicknamed Little Chicago by some — on Tuesday, referring to passageways below the city's downtown streets. The tunnels were turned into a tourist attraction in 2000 with Capone-themed tours and costumed characters.

"Everyone is really curious about Al Capone and whether or not he was in Saskatchewan."

Because of extremely limited paper documentation, Riess has focused on accounts and hearsay passed down the generations.

"I wasn't prepared at first for all the stories that were coming from across Saskatchewan," Riess said. "We've just been following the trail."

Deirdre Capone, 73, right, is filmed in the Tunnels of Moose Jaw for a documentary, Finding Al, about her great-uncle. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO IN REGINA

The crew is also travelling to North Dakota and then to Chicago in hopes of "connecting the dots" and following a rail line that Capone allegedly used.

Riess had planned to visit Capone's great-niece Deirdre Capone, who has written a book about her family story. But the 73-year-old ended up coming to Saskatchewan from her Florida home to be featured in the documentary.

"There is no one else that can (tell the story)," Deirdre said after taking a guided tour of the Tunnels.

"He was a mobster, but not a monster."

Capone didn't let on to her relation to the infamous crime figure during the tour, even whispering to a Metro reporter, "I wonder what these people would say if they knew who I was."

Riess pointed out that her favourite Saskatchewan story on Capone comes from a Weyburn-area home, where Deirdre's great-uncle would allegedly host firearm-filled parties once a year for his men and local farmers.

"It's our own Saskatchewan thing," Riess said. "I just like the idea of bootlegging mobster farmers."

Tory senators deny coverup

Two Conservative senators are denying accusations they conspired to cover up the repayment of embattled colleague Mike Duffy's expenses.

David Tkachuk and Carolyn Stewart Olsen, who both sit on a committee reviewing improper expense claims by senators, were responding to a CTV News report.

The report alleges that Tkachuk and Stewart Olsen pressed Duffy to accept a secret $90,000 cheque from Nigel Wright, then the prime minister's chief of staff. Duffy was allegedly then expected to pass the money off as his own.

"Anyone who suggests that we were aware of Mr. Wright's payment to Sen. Duffy before it was reported publicly is lying," Tkachuk and Stewart Olsen said in an emailed statement.

"Our long-standing position is that Sen. Duffy should have immediately repaid all ineligible expenses to taxpayers."

The CTV News report paraphrased emails shown to the agency by an anonymous source.

It's not the first time that Tkachuk and Stewart Olsen have been accused of helping to cover up or whitewash the improper expenses claimed by Duffy and former Conservative Pamela Wallin.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No plan to recall Parliament. Baird talks Syria with opposition

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird is talking to opposition leaders about the developing crisis surrounding Syria. But the department says calls to recall Parliament to discuss military action are premature.

Baird spoke first to Tom Mulcair, whose spokesman, George Smith, said the NDP Leader "was very clear with Minister Baird that Parliament would have to be recalled if there was any direct military involvement. Mr. Mulcair also stressed the importance of working with the United Nations."

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, in P.E.I. for a caucus retreat, said Canada needs to proceed cautiously.

"As soon as we talk about military intervention, there are many, many questions unanswered. Like what would military victory look like? Who would we be helping?" Trudeau said.

"There are grave questions, both about the government side but also about the rebel side. That's where we have to have honest and open dialogue about it. And I'm certainly not going to pretend that anyone has all the answers."

John Baird THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dissent. UN mandate needed for action against Syria, Italy says

Any military strike against Syria must be authorized by the UN Security Council, Italy insisted on Tuesday.

Briefing Parliament, Foreign Minister Emma Bonino called Syria's alleged chemical attack a "war crime" but said her government wouldn't support military action without UN Security Council authorization.

"Italy would not actively take in any military action ... beyond the context of the Security Council, which for us is and remains the only point of legal reference that cannot be ignored," Bonino said.

Italy offered both military bases on its territory and its own aircraft for the 2011 NATO campaign in Libya. Bonino didn't specify how Italy might view base use during any intervention against Syria led by allies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abducted in Colombia

Kidnapped mining executive freed by rebels

A Canadian executive who was kidnapped by Colombian rebels opposed to his company's gold-mining project has been freed. The International Committee of the Red Cross says Gernot Wober, 47, was released on Tuesday by the National Liberation Army. Wober, vice-president of exploration of Toronto-based Braeval Mining Corp., was abducted on Jan. 18, along with two Colombians and two Peruvians. Braeval said last month that it is pulling out of Colombia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CIA behind overthrow

Iran to debate suing U.S. over 1953 coup

Iran's parliament has approved fast-tracking debate on a bill to sue the U.S. for its involvement in the 1953 CIA-orchestrated coup that overthrew the country's democratically elected prime minister Mohammed Mossadegh and restored the oppressive regime of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Deliberations begin on Wednesday over how to launch a formal complaint accusing the U.S. of intervening in Iran's internal affairs and inflicting damages on the Persian state.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. lays out case for Syrian strike

Closer to attack. Officials prepare legal justification for military intervention

The Obama administration tried to bolster its case on Tuesday for possible military action against Syria within days, with intelligence agencies preparing to release intercepted communications aimed at proving Bashar Assad perpetrated a large-scale chemical attack on civilians.

The U.S. and international partners were unlikely to undertake military action before Thursday. That's when British Prime Minister David Cameron will convene an emergency meeting of Parliament during which MPs are expected to vote on a motion clearing the way for an armed response.

Obama administration officials argued that Assad's actions posed a direct threat to U.S. national security, providing President Barack Obama with a possible legal justification for launching a strike without authorization from the United Nations or Congress. However, officials did not detail how the U.S. was directly threatened by an attack contained within Syria's borders. Nor did they present concrete proof that Assad was responsible.

"Allowing the use of chemical weapons on a significant scale to take place without a response would present a significant challenge to, threat to the United States' national security," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

Assad has denied using chemical weapons, calling the allegations "preposterous."

Obama is weighing a response focused narrowly on punishing Assad for violating international agreements that ban the use of chemical weapons, an act he repeatedly has said would cross a "red line." Officials said the goal was not to drive the Syrian leader from power or impact the broader trajectory of Syria's bloody civil war, which is in its third year.

"The options we are considering are not about regime change," Carney said.

U.S. officials say the most likely operation would be largely sea-based, with the strikes coming primarily from navy warships in the Mediterranean Sea. Fighter jets often are deployed to monitor the area and protect the ships, but Syria's robust air-defence system makes air strikes more difficult and risky.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'No doubt'

"There's no doubt who is responsible for this heinous use of chemical weapons in Syria: The Syrian regime." U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden

At a news conference in Damascus on Tuesday, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said his country would use "all means available" to repel a U.S.-led strike. "We have the means to defend ourselves and we will surprise everyone," al-Moallem said, beneath a portrait of President Bashar Assad, who is accused of using chemical weapons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'We are ready to go': U.S. defense secretary

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Military forces are poised to strike Syria immediately if the commander-in-chief gives the order, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Monday.

The U.S. Navy has four destroyers in the eastern Mediterranean within range of targets in Syria and also has warplanes in the region.

"We are ready to go," Hagel said during a television interview while travelling in Asia.

Before any strike, the U.S. also plans to release additional intelligence it says will directly link Assad to the Aug. 21 alleged attack in the Damascus suburbs. A U.S. official said the report is expected to include "signals intelligence," or information gathered from intercepted communications.

Even before releasing that information, U.S. officials said they had very little doubt that Assad was culpable in what is believed to have been a chemical-weapons attack, based on witness reports, the symptoms of those killed or injured and intelligence showing the Syrian government has not lost control of its chemical-weapons stockpiles.

U.S. officials have spent much of the week seeking to rally international support for an aggressive response to the alleged attack.

The flurry of action is in stark contrast to President Barack Obama's previously restrained approach to Syria's civil war, which has left more than 100,000 people dead, according to UN estimates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halifax

N.S. licence plates boost buying local

A new licence plate is being made available in Nova Scotia that encourages people to buy locally produced goods. The plate features an image from the Select Nova Scotia marketing campaign. The optional plate will be issued on request to passenger and light commercial vehicles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Trade talks. U.S. proposal won't affect anti-smoking laws: Ottawa

The Canadian government says it sees no specific threat in a controversial U.S. proposal to include tobacco in the TransPacific Partnership trade negotiations that health advocates argue will make it more difficult to enforce anti-smoking campaigns.

A spokesman for Trade Minister Ed Fast says the government is still reviewing the proposal, along with another Malaysia tabled Tuesday that would carve out tobacco from the TPP altogether, but said it does not believe there will be any impact on Canada's anti-smoking regulations.

"Canada's ability to regulate in the public interest, including health, remains unchanged in the U.S. proposal," said Rudy Husny, press secretary to the trade minister, who last week was in Brunei for the start of the latest round in the talks.

But health advocates say the proposal is weaker than Washington's previous position of a "safe harbour" for tobacco control laws, and insist it does give tobacco companies the ability to challenge countries.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health advocates are hopping mad about the U.S. proposal to include tobacco in the TransPacific Partnership trade negotiations.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Egypt's tourism industry has that empty feeling

Souvenirs rest on a car dashboard at the Giza Pyramids near Cairo on Tuesday. The chairman of the Egyptian Airports Co. says some flights are arriving nearly empty to the country since this summer's violent turmoil. Flights that can carry more than 100 passengers from Europe arrive with just nine, and return full from beach resorts. Major tour operators in Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark say they have cancelled at least 60,000 trips.
LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feds requested data on 219 Facebook users

Online privacy. Firm is latest tech company to release stats on how often governments seek customer information

The Canadian government demanded Facebook turn over information on 219 users in the first half of the year, the company said Tuesday in releasing global data.

They were among about 38,000 Facebook users whose data was scrutinized by authorities in 74 countries, Facebook said. About half of those orders came from the United States.

Facebook said it turned over some data to authorities in 44 per cent of the Canadian cases, and that it was required by law to do so. The company declined to give any specific details.

The social-networking giant is the latest technology firm to release figures on how often governments seek information about its customers. Microsoft and Google have done the same.

"The vast majority of these requests relate to criminal cases, such as robberies or kidnappings," Facebook said on its blog. "In many of these cases, these government requests seek basic subscriber information, such as name and length of service. Other requests may also seek IP address logs or actual account content."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Talking Turkey

- Facebook and Twitter have become organizing platforms for activists and, as such, are targets for authorities. Following anti-government protests in Turkey in May and June, Facebook denied it provided information about protest organizers to the Turkish government.
- Data released Tuesday show Turkish authorities submitted 96 requests covering 173 users. Facebook said it provided some data in about 45 of those cases, but gave no details on what was turned over.

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CAN AFFLECK BE THE WORST BATMAN?

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Are you ready to have some fun?

Are you ready to play the Batman game?

Granted, this is probably only fun for people who have yet to get beyond the mental age of 12, but that's almost everybody. The rest of you, get over yourselves.

The Batman game is easy to play, of course: In the history of Batman stretching back to 1943, who has been the best — and the worst — Batman?

It's time to play the game again, because now that The Dark Knight's Christian Bale has moved on to Shakespeare or whatever, Ben Affleck has been announced as his replacement, causing thousands of bat fans to fall screeching from the sky.

Even though Ben has restored his reputation with an Oscar for Argo, the stench from the "Bennifer" era and his participation in Gigli, often cited as the worst movie ever, lingers.

There's even a petition on the White House website demanding that the president intervene and prevent 'Batfleck' from spoiling Batman.

Many fans believe Bale redeemed Batman from weak portrayals by otherwise decent actors such as George Clooney and indecent actors such as Val Kilmer, and they don't want to see another lame flying mammal re-infest the bat cave.

OK, if Clooney, the world's most admired movie star, failed to own the belfry, what does Batfleck expect? It's a dangerous job, fighting crime in Gotham City for $15 million an episode.

When you play the game, you probably start during the era when you first encountered the Caped Crusader. For me, that would be back in the '60s, and the inane Batman TV series of 1966-68 starring Adam West. Of course, it was supposed to be inane, or "camp," I believe it was called then, when inane was cool.

I never bought that.

Then, in the late '80s, Tim Burton made Beetlejuice star Michael Keaton his Batman, generating the same kind of horror now gripping the streets of Gotham and other locales over Batfleck. But Keaton turned out to be really good; so good, he rivals Bale as a fan favourite, especially for those who were alive in the '80s.

For the most part, people seem to prefer the intense, brooding Batguys to the Bat-light Clooneys or Kilmers.

Even Clooney himself thinks he stunk up the cave: "With hindsight," he said "it's easy to look back at this and go 'Woah, that was really s--t and I was really bad in it.'"

Of course, if you're really serious about this stuff, you can spread your wings and get into a variation on a theme: the Batman nemesis game. For example, who's the best Penguin, Burgess Meredith or Danny DeVito? Or how about the best Joker? Jack Nicholson or Heath Ledger?

If we can keep this going, we'll never have to grow up. Batman forever!

ZOOM

It takes balls to beat boredom

THOMAS HARTWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fun after curfew? Don't count on it

Egyptians break curfew by playing soccer during the nighttime in the Garden City neighbourhood of Cairo.

In every corner of the Egyptian capital, a bustling city of 18 million that rarely sleeps, people are locked up in their homes at night under a military-imposed curfew that has driven people up the walls, sometimes literally.

To kill time, one said he spent the night counting flowers on his wallpaper — a staggering 865. Another tested how many cucumbers he can fit in a refrigerator drawer. A third calculated the speed of an ant crawling on his balcony rail.

The curfew has been a shock to Cairo, a city where cafes stay packed into the night and parents routinely take their children out for dinners nearing midnight.

The military-backed government's curfew, after violent unrest following the July 3 coup that ousted President Mohammed Morsi, slashed the typical Cairo 24-hour life to just 11 hours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What to do...

- Some predicted a baby boom next winter. Cynics suggest a hike in divorce rates —spouses are locked up together for longer.
- Others fled the turmoil to the Mediterranean coastline.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Somebody needs to have the comedic chops to help us fill the time between cat videos. Luckily for us, YouTube is home to a bumper crop of very funny people who are happy to oblige.

BriTANick:

Nick Kocher and Brian McElhaney enjoyed a moment in the spotlight with Oscar-Winning Movie Trailer a while back, but their channel is an embarrassment of riches for anybody looking for a laugh. A gold star award for the skit where the two argue over whether or not Jesus can be seen in a piece of toast. (youtube.com/britanick)

5 Second Films:

A simple enough concept: Unpack as much humour and plot that five seconds will allow. The brevity means you're often thrown into dysfunctional relationships between roommates, but who can't relate to that. (youtube.com/5secondfilms)

Comediva:

Hilarious recurring characters and weird high-concept ideas for television shows are among the many reasons this channel works as a perfect rebuttal the next time you run into somebody from the cult of Women Aren't Funny. (youtube.com/comediva)

Letters

RE: Talking About Sex? Gasp! Published Aug. 21

I thought it was a really interesting and apt point made by the author that children and teens are exposed, without question, to huge amounts of violence, and yet are sheltered from any open, honest, and fact- or experience-based discussion of sex and sexuality.

Due to the inadequacy of sex education in schools, and many parents' squeamishness about discussing the topic, teens are left to educate themselves and each other about sex — getting their (mis)information from urban myths, chat rooms, and reality television. Talking to one's child about sex can be difficult, so parents should be glad there is this type of self-guided, science-based exhibition to help teach their children/teens about healthy sexuality.

The "self-appointed guardians of the public morality" are kidding themselves by thinking that this exhibit (or any open discussions about sex) will newly expose teens to "the discovery of attraction, seduction, desire, and intimacy."

So what is it about sex? Unfortunately, our society still operates on a puritanical value system, that not only turns a blind eye to the realities of youth and sex, but which also paints sex and sexuality as something that is shameful and should not be spoken about.

Martha Elliott and Karla Pena-Mendez, London

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: londonletters@metronews.ca

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SCENE 2

A curious idea and its interesting conversation

Ironside. Actor responds to criticism over being cast as detective in a wheelchair

When it came time to prepare for his role as the wheelchair-bound detective in Global's reboot of the television classic Ironside, Blair Underwood turned to his mother for advice.

"I spent a lot of time talking to her about her experiences," Underwood said about his mother, who has multiple sclerosis and uses a wheelchair.

"It was very important that we as professionals … me as an actor, are really respectful and authentic as we can be to this disability that this character has."

The fact Underwood's character uses a wheelchair is about as far as this reboot of the TV classic goes in trying to emulate Raymond Burr's show, which aired from 1967 to 1975.

"It was a very curious idea; I was a little taken aback," admitted Underwood about being asked to join the cast.

"But then I thought, I liked the old Ironside. The only elements we took are his name, Ironside, the fact that he is a detective, the fact he is in a wheelchair."

METRO IS TUNED IN TO THE NEW TV SEASON ALL THIS WEEK. PICK US UP DAILY OR VISIT METRONEWS.CA

Blair Underwood stars in the reboot of the TV classic Ironside. CONTRIBUTED

Airing Wednesdays starting Oct. 2, the series picks up two years after Underwood's character, Robert Ironside, is paralyzed by a gun shot while investigating a case.

All about the dialogue

"I think it is great that it has brought the conversation forward."

Blair Underwood on facing criticism for being an able-bodied actor cast in the role of a detective in a wheelchair

"He is very much trying to reconcile this new version of himself," Underwood says of his character, whose story is told in flashbacks throughout the series.

Still, Underwood's casting in the series hasn't been without controversy.

Some have criticized the casting as offensive because, instead of hiring an actor who uses a wheelchair, they went with an able-bodied actor instead.

"I think it is great that it has brought the conversation forward," said Underwood. "It's a conversation that I get, I respect it, and what I derive from that, from speaking to one particular actor who is disabled, is their frustration. Because actors who are disabled, from what I understand, are often not thought of in terms of casting. Producers don't think to cast a disabled actor."

METRO

Reign. You won't learn history from this show

Reign airs on CTV Two starting Thursday, Oct. 17. CONTRIBUTED

The cast and creator of the upcoming series Reign, about the rise of Mary, Queen of Scots, are defending creative liberties taken for the show. Reign stars Adelaide Kane as Mary, a 15-year-old who arrives at court because of an arranged marriage to Francis, the future king of France. One issue: Francis is played by hunky actor Toby Regbo, when in reality Francis was a sickly child. And to keep things interesting, there's a love triangle where Mary is torn between her husband-to-be and another hunky character named Sebastian, who never existed. Kane says the show's target demo of 18- to 34-year-olds won't care. "How many teenage girls do you know that are obsessed with history? I know I wasn't at that age," Kane said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joss Whedon. Writer enjoys creative freedom on Avengers spinoff

Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. premieres Sept. 24 on CTV. CONTRIBUTED

Joss Whedon said he's been enjoying trust as much as freedom from his partners on the much-awaited sci-fi drama, Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. The prolific Whedon said recently that both ABC and Marvel have been involved in getting what they want as the series takes shape, but he added he has been allowed to fulfil his vision. He said everyone is on the same page, while noting pointedly he hasn't always been blessed with that sort of creative relationship.

S.H.I.E.L.D., premiering Tuesday, Sept. 24, on CTV, picks up where the film Marvel's The Avengers left off — tracking a team of skilled agents who investigate super-human people around the world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muscle car is the real star of Getaway

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Ethan Hawke and Selena Gomez are the stars of Getaway, a new action adventure film from Toronto-born director Courtney Solomon, but the scene-stealer is the Ford Shelby GT500 Super Snake, built by legendary car customizer Shelby American.

"Since Getaway takes place in a foreign country," said Soloman, "I felt strongly that we needed the quintessential American muscle car with enough star power to shine with Ethan and Selena."

Two Shelby GT500 Super Snakes were actually used to tell the story of a former race car driver who must steal the souped-up car and perform a number of duties to prevent his wife from being killed. The first can be seen in the Bulgarian-shot action scenes. The second was used during audio recording in Los Angeles.

The silver Super Snake is a sleek thing of beauty, but the most famous movie car has to be the 1963 Aston Martin DB5 used in Goldfinger. Not only was it the first and most recognized James Bond car — after the movie was released it was called "the most famous car in the world" — but it also inspired a popular Corgi car that became the biggest selling toy of 1964.

The British-made vehicle also appears in The Cannonball Run, driven by former Bond Roger Moore and in a highly stylized form as a secret agent (voiced by Michael Caine) in Pixar's Cars 2.

The first auto to have its own screen credit was Herbie, the anthropomorphic 1962 Volkswagen Beetle from The Love Bug. The original script didn't specify any type of car, but after filmmakers "auditioned" several Toyotas, a TVR sportscar, a Volvo, an MG and a pearl white Volkswagen Beetle, the VW was chosen because it was the only car the crew tried to reach out and pet.

Ethan Hawke and Selena Gomez in Getaway. CONTRIBUTED

Finally, who could forget Marty McFly's (Michael J. Fox) famous line, "Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Doc, uh... Are you telling me that you built a time machine... out of a DeLorean?"

Back to the Future used one of the 9,000 gull-winged DeLorean DMC-12 sport cars manufactured by the DeLorean Motor Company in Northern Ireland as a machine that propelled McFly back in time.

"Yes, the way I see it," said the machine's inventor, Dr. Emmett L. Brown (Christopher Lloyd), "if you're gonna build a time machine into a car, why not do it with some style?"

Crime/drama

Closed Circuit

Director. John Crowley

Stars. Eric Bana, Rebecca Hall, Jim Broadbent

Eric Bana and Rebecca Hall play lawyers and ex-lovers who find themselves in the crosshairs when their defence of a suspected terrorist uncovers evidence that could cause a national scandal. Closed Circuit is a thriller with few thrills. In its rush to get to the climax — which is actually twisty and turny enough to be interesting — it blasts through plot details, not giving us any reason to care about the characters. Once again Bana proves to be a handsome cipher — he's a good-looking actor but as dull as dishwater.

RICHARD CROUSE

Miley Cyrus?

Cheyne has Miley's back with choice words for Kelly Clarkson

Miley Cyrus has been on the receiving end of plenty of criticism for her risqué MTV Video Music Awards performance with Robin Thicke, but she has at least one person in her corner: good pal Cheyne Thomas. "Kelly Clarkson called Miley a pitchy stripper. Do you think she's mad because her past few singles flopped and she wasn't asked to perform?" Thomas posted to Twitter. "And she's fat and 30."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Are Rihanna and Drake rekindling?

It looks like Rihanna is spending time with old flame Drake, as the pair got in some quality time at N.Y. nightspot Sons of Essex the Friday prior to last weekend's MTV Video Music Awards, according to E! News.

"Drake came in around 10 p.m. with 10 people and had four large security guards. Rihanna came about an hour later, alone, not counting her security," a source says. "They sat in a back room, the lights were dimmed and there was sort of a barricade of tables blocking their group off."

But don't call it a rekindled romance just yet. "It seemed very casual," the source says, adding that Rihanna and Drake left a "generous" $500 tip before leaving separately.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Reunion was 'just for a minute'

Well, it's official. That two-minute 'N Sync reunion at the MTV Video Music Awards was it as far as the band getting back together, JC Chasez confirms to Ryan Seacrest during a radio interview.

"Everybody would ask us, 'When are you guys going to do something?' We did. Just for a minute, though," he says. "It was really about (Justin Timberlake) and all that he's accomplished. He wanted to acknowledge that part of his career, and so we all decided to do it."

Justin Timberlake. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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Travel like a star

If celebrity spotting and star gazing gets your adrenaline pumping, here are some holiday suggestions that will allow you to indulge your inner paparazzi

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

1 Be a high roller

For those who want to spend the money to rub shoulders with the world's rich and famous, a great website to bookmark is millionairesconcierge.com. It can help you plan a whole range of high-end vacations and buy tickets to celebrity-heavy events, like the Oscars, the Superbowl or the Emmys. ACTRESS JENNIFER LAWRENCE ARRIVES AT THE OSCARS/GETTY IMAGES

2 Or save your pennies

For the slightly more budget conscious, go to the tinsel towns of New York, Los Angeles or London, England. Reserve tickets in advance to the taping of your favourite late night talk show or TV sitcom to ensure some celeb face time. BE PART OF A STUDIO AUDIENCE!/GETTY IMAGES

3 Celeb hot spots

If you prefer to actually vacation alongside the stars, book your holiday to celebrity favourites like Las Vegas, Telluride, Colorado or the Caribbean islands of St. Bart's or Anguilla. Anguilla's laid back vibe is particularly attractive to celebrities like Ellen and Portia, Jay-Z and Beyoncé and camera-shy Janet Jackson, who was seen wandering around the supermarket alone on a recent visit.

ST. BART'S HARBOUR/ISTOCK IMAGES

4 TIFF brings Hollywood north

This year's Toronto International Film Festival runs from Sept. 5 to the 15 and will provide opportunities to see stars such as Meryl Streep, Hugh Jackman and Jennifer Aniston. Film festivals are a great way to include star gazing into your vacation. Celebrities are there to promote their movies and mingle, so they tend to be more open to the personal attention. Stake out the red carpets during film premieres and lie in wait over cocktails at hip locations like the Drake Hotel, the Shangri-La or the recently opened Four Seasons Hotel. ACTOR JARED LETO AT TIFF IN 2012/GETTY IMAGES

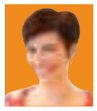
5 From sea to star

If you want more than just a quick photo opportunity, consider booking a celebrity-themed cruise. Cruise lines occasionally invite big name chefs, authors or movie stars on board and design the itineraries so people have a chance to interact with them. ISTOCK IMAGES

6 Stay in their resorts and hotels

If you want to say you spent the night with a famous friend-to-be, check in to a celebrity-owned hotel like Bono and The Edge's The Clarence in Dublin, Ireland; Abba's Benny Andersson's Hotel Rivalin in Stockholm, Sweden or Elizabeth Hurley's No. 11 Cadogan Gardensin in London, England. Closer to home, bunk in at Jason Priestley's Terrace Beach Resort in Ucluelet, B.C. A MAN WALKS PAST THE CLARENCE HOTEL, OWNED BY SINGER BONO/GETTY IMAGES

Black Bean Chilaquile: Heavy on Mexican flavour, light on the wallet



NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

Eat cheap (and healthy)

For the next three Wednesdays, Metro's Theresa Albert will be serving up some easy to make and healthy recipes that are perfect for families or starving students.

This recipe serves three to four people. FLICKR: ROOEY202

Ingredients

- 1/2 onion, chopped ($0.44)
- 1 tbsp olive oil ($0.08)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced ($0.10)
- 1/2 cup tomatoes, chopped ($0.23)
- 3/4 cup frozen corn, thawed ($0.11)
- 1 can black beans, drained ($1.29)
- 2 tsp lime juice ($0.12)
- 1 package frozen spinach , thawed and drained well ($1.89)
- 1 tsp each oregano and chili powder ($0.11)
- 2 cups tortilla chips, crushed ($0.79)
- 3 oz cheddar cheese ($1.76)
- 1 cup salsa ($0.60)

Total $7.52 (about $2.50 per 3 people or $1.88 per 4 people)

You know how you love nachos but the calories will kill you? Here is a way to have all the taste and none of the guilt. That's because a black bean and veggie heavy casserole gives you the same crispy, cheesy feeling.

This is a great make ahead party dish too. Just stop before the baking step and pop it in the oven for 20 minutes before you want to serve.

1. Sauté onion in oil for 8 minutes until very soft. Stir in garlic, tomatoes, corn, black beans, lime juice, salt and pepper and cook 5 min to heat through. Stir in spinach and heat through; sprinkle in oregano and chili powder.

2. Prepare 8x8 casserole dish or baking pan with light coating of oil. Spread half of the crushed tortilla chips on the bottom. Spoon the sautéed veg over chips. Top with remaining chips and cheese.

3. Heat in 400F oven to melt cheese. Top with salsa and serve

Drink of the Week

The Zephyr

Tart and refreshing, this cocktail blends fresh citrus notes for a cool summer treat.

- 1.5 oz Belvedere vodka
- 1/2 oz fresh pink grapefruit juice
- 1/2 oz orgeat syrup
- 1/2 oz fresh lemon juice
- Top tonic water

Shake first four ingredients and strain into highball over fresh ice.

Top with tonic water and garnish with a wedge of fresh pink grapefruit.

RECIPE AND PHOTO COURTESY BELVEDERE VODKA

(N)oodles of summer tofu fun

1. Heat the grill to medium. Check the grates of your grill to see whether the broccoli florets are likely to fall through. If so, line a small baking sheet or metal roasting pan with foil, then mist with cooking spray.

2. In a medium bowl, combine the broccoli florets and about 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Toss until evenly coated. Season with salt and pepper.

Ingredients

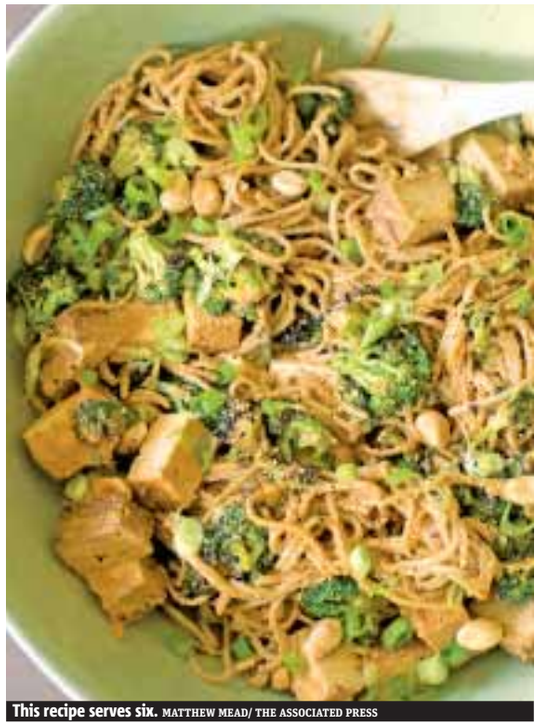
- 4 cups broccoli florets
- Olive oil
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 8-oz block marinated and baked tofu (check the refrigerated Asian section at the grocer)
- 6.2-oz package soba noodles
- 2/3 cup natural peanut butter
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup water
- 3 tbsp seasoned rice vinegar
- 1-inch chunk fresh ginger
- 2 cloves garlic
- Hot sauce, to taste
- 2 scallions, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped roasted peanuts

3. Place the tofu slabs on the grill. Carefully transfer the broccoli to the grill, either directly on the grates or on the prepared baking sheet or roasting pan. Grill the broccoli for 3 minutes, the tofu for 8 minutes, or until the broccoli is lightly charred and the tofu is nicely seared. Transfer everything to a baking sheet in a single layer. Place in the refrigerator to cool.

4. While the broccoli and tofu cool, bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add the soba noodles and cook for 5 minutes, or until just tender. Drain well, then transfer to the baking sheet in the refrigerator to cool.

5. Meanwhile, to prepare the peanut sauce, in a blender combine the peanut butter, soy sauce, water, rice vinegar, ginger and garlic. Blend until smooth. Add a splash of hot sauce, blend then taste and adjust with additional hot sauce, if desired.

6. When the tofu, broccoli and noodles have cooled, transfer the tofu to a cutting board and cut into bite-size chunks. Transfer the noodles to a large bowl and drizzle the peanut sauce over them. Toss to coat evenly, then add the tofu and broccoli and mix gently. Garnish with chopped scallions and peanuts.



This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prosciutto, Cantaloupe and Orecchiette Salad

1. Bring pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook according to package directions.

2. Two minutes before the pasta is finished cooking, add the asparagus. When the pasta is finished, drain immediately and mix in several ice cubes. Stand the strainer of pasta and asparagus in the sink and run cool water over them until completely cooled.

3. Meanwhile, in a large bowl whisk together the olive oil, vinegar and mustard. Add the cooked and cooled pasta and asparagus, the fennel, prosciutto, cantaloupe and basil. Gently stir to combine and distribute the dressing. Season with salt and pepper, then garnish with the Parmesan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 16 oz orecchiette pasta
- 1 bunch asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 3 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp whole-grain mustard
- 1 fennel bulb, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 4 oz prosciutto, cut into thin strips
- 1 cup diced cantaloupe
- 1/2 cup torn basil leaves
- Salt and ground black pepper
- Shaved Parmesan cheese

Ace of heart-to-hearts: How to know if you impressed your interviewer

I came, I saw, a contract. Don't be too perplexed as to whether you pleased the professionals

MEGHAN GREAVES
TalentEgg.ca

Body of work: If you noticed that the interviewer was engaged in the conversation, nodding, smiling or giving off any other positive body language hints, you may just be on a fast track to success. ISTOCK

Before an interview, it's only natural to feel nervous. But post-interview is when the anxiety tends to kick in. Our mind hops on the over-thinking train and doesn't look back. The main reason this happens is because we know the decision is now out of our hands and we don't have much control over it.

You've gone through the application process and the interview. The next thing to do is wait patiently to hear back with the decision. But the time between the interview and when you hear back can seem like an eternity.

To help with the post-interview jitters and make the wait a little quicker, read these signs to look out for during and after the interview and what they could mean for you as the interviewee.

The interview went longer than scheduled

An interview that goes longer than scheduled is always a good sign that the interviewer wants to get to know you better and is interested in the conversation. This is a win-win situation because you get to learn more about the company and position, and you get more time to show how you will be a great asset.

They told you when you'll hear back

If the interviewer gives you a firm date as to when you'll hear back, it means that they have a timeline defined for the hiring process. This could also mean that during the interview they made the decision (hiring you!) and just need to speak with their team to work out the details. Even if the news isn't what you were hoping for, at least you have a concrete idea as to when you'll know the decision.

You talked about topics beyond the job description

Ensuring that you answer each question during the interview effectively is the first step toward having a successful interview. An interview that exceeds expectations is one where you answer every question and then start to talk about the contributions you can make beyond the job description. If you found that this was happening in the interview, you probably left the interviewer with a positive impression.

You hear that your references have been contacted

Reference-checking is time consuming. Unless you're being seriously considered, interviewers won't spend the time to do this. If you hear from your references that they have been contacted, this is a signal that they're finalizing their decision and you're a top candidate.

You felt like you fit

- I have had interviews before where I automatically thought "this is the perfect fit" or in other cases, "I'm not sure if this company/role is for me."
- If you felt as though you fit in well during the interview, chances are that the interviewer shared the same feeling. If an interviewer feels as though you had a good interview and also thinks you'll fit well with their environment, chances are you'll be on the top of their mind when making the final hiring decision.

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MEGHAN GREAVES
TalentEgg.ca

As a student, it's important to be aware of where your tuition money goes. College and university can be expensive, but it's not just the courses you're paying for. There are services that can help the fitness, career, extracurricular and social aspects of your student life. Here are a few things you should use to your advantage while you're still in school:

Student discounts

Between tuition, books and a social life, being a student can mean a strained wallet. Student unions often provide student discounts on a number of activities such as movies, transit tickets, theme parks, sporting events and other special deals so you can go out once in awhile without worrying about spending a fortune.

Tip: Check frequently for different deals. You can visit your student union's website, stop by their office or give them a call to find out more.

Gym membership

For some, the gym is the perfect place to unwind before, after or in between studies. Gym memberships are included in many tuition packages, but students may find themselves "too busy" or claim that the gym "isn't their thing."

Exercise is an important part of keeping the body and mind healthy.

Tip: Get a copy of the exercise schedule. Try different classes by yourself or with a friend and see which ones you like best. Mark an activity or two into your weekly schedule as you would with academic classes.

Exercise your right to get the best value from your school bucks. ISTOCK

Health centre

Students spend most of their time at school and may not have time to go to the doctor. That's where the health centre comes in. Health and dental coverage are included in your tuition fees, whether you have a medical plan or not. The health centre usually covers counselling services, nutrition and blood tests.

Tip: You can opt out of health and dental services and receive a refund on the fees. Check with your university for more details.

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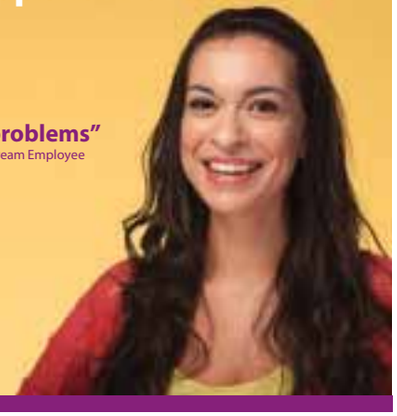

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‘This is where I belong’: Freeman returns to London

NBL Canada. City’s rapport with players leads to MVP’s decision to rejoin Lightning

DAVE LANGFORD
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Gabe Freeman is back.

There were smiles all around Tuesday as the London Lightning made it official: The National Basketball League of Canada’s most valuable player from two seasons ago is back on the roster.

The city — and Canada’s appeal as a whole — appear to have played a big role in the Phoenix-born forward’s decision.

Team owner Vito Frijia said as much Tuesday as Freeman was welcomed back.

“Most of the players can’t believe the atmosphere that exists here in Canada,” Frijia said.

Speaking later, Frijia expanded on how his predominantly black team feels about playing in London, versus south of the border. Other than the Lightning’s three mandated Canadian players, the remainder of the 12-man roster is American.

“The players really are astonished how they are treated as human beings, how they are accepted, how colour is not a barrier to who they are,” Frijia told Metro. “From some of the players, especially some of the players from the southern part of the States, it’s totally a different way of life for them here. They feel accepted; they feel like a human being should feel, like we are all equal.”

Frijia said the way the players are embraced is a huge help in recruiting.

“It’s unbelievable,” he said. “Some of the fans invited (the players) home to suppers.”

Freeman confirmed that the organization, the fans and the people of London were all reasons he rejoined the Lightning.

“The fans, No. 1, first and foremost. This is family. It’s easy for us to come from the States, come here and feel embraced by the people,” Freeman said. “This year, I wanted to come back. This is where I belong. I won here the first year. I was successful here. I want to come back here and be successful again.”

Lightning general manager Taylor Brown said there is no such thing as making the two-time defending league champions too strong.

“You never build a team to be too good. That’s my philosophy,” Brown said. “(It’s) not fair to fans, not fair to the city.”

Brown said the league has improved since Freeman left the team after the first season.

But, he said, “Gabe is an energy guy and you can’t teach that.”

“And he goes out and works harder than anybody else,” Brown added. “That’s how he succeeds.”

Freeman at a glance

- Gabe Freeman, 27, is a six-foot-six, 210-pound forward who attended high school in Tempe, Ariz. He played two years at Mesa Community College. He has also played professional basketball in the U.S., Mexico, Australia and the Philippines.
- During his MVP season in London two years ago, he averaged 18 points and 12 rebounds per game.

Forward Gabe Freeman has rejoined the London Lightning after a year playing basketball in the Philippines. He was re-introduced to London on Tuesday at Budweiser Gardens. HALEY RITCHIE/FOR METRO

Knights or Pens? Just a Maatta of time

Penguins prospect Olli Maatta speaks with members of the media last year in Pittsburgh. GETTY IMAGES

Olli Maatta hopes he has seen the last of the London Knights this season.

The Finnish-born blue-liner leaves Wednesday for Pittsburgh Penguins camp after being picked 22nd overall in the 2012 NHL entry draft.

If he doesn’t make the Penguins, he returns to the Knights for a second season.

“Obviously, I want to make the team,” Maatta, 18, said when stopped outside Budweiser Gardens Tuesday afternoon. “But I am in a good spot. It doesn’t matter whether I make it or not. I will have a good team to play with, ... good tough games to play in. That’s awesome, but of course I want to make the team.”

Maatta will be accompanied to Pittsburgh by Knights captain and fellow defenceman Scott Harrington, a 2011 Pens pick. While he’s rooting for Harrington to make the team, there’s a limit to this friendship thing, Maatta said.

“It’s good competition,” he said. “On ice, we compete with each other, but off the ice we are friends.”

Maatta will be back in London for the NHL rookie tournament as a member of the Pens. It may be after those games that he makes London home for another season. The four-team tournament is next week.

“I think this is the year we’ve been building for,” Maatta said of the Knights. “I think we have a great team, good forwards, great D. I think we have a chance to win it again and make it all way to Mem Cup final and win that too.”

Knights camp continues Wednesday with scrimmages open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at Budweiser Gardens. Fans are asked to enter through Gate 4 on Dundas Street.

The first exhibition game is Friday at the Gardens against the Sarnia Sting. Game time is 7:30 p.m. DAVE LANGFORD/METRO

OUA football

New season, new name for Western Mustangs’ field

As the Western Mustangs prepare for their football home opener on Sept. 2, their stadium is getting a new name.

Known for years as TD Waterhouse Stadium, the name has been trimmed to TD Stadium, officials said Tuesday.

The change reflects the overall brand evolution at TD and the TD Waterhouse name is retiring as a result, according to a statement.

The renaming was approved by Western’s board of governors in June.

METRO

Hockey Canada

“It always helps in a short tournament when you know each other.” Mike Richards who is one of 10 players from the 2005 gold-medal winning world juniors invited to Canada’s Olympic orientation camp.

U.S. Open

Raonic rolls through Round 1

Milos Raonic advanced to the second round of the U.S. Open on Tuesday.

The 10th-seeded player from Thornhill, Ont., defeated Italy’s Thomas Fabbiano 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-3.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Milos Raonic serves to Thomas Fabbiano on Tuesday in New York. GETTY IMAGES

4 SPORTS

DRIVE 5

The 2013 Nissan Leaf

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Review. Norway shows the way environmentally as Leafs continue to fly off the shelves

They're clever people, the Norwegians. In Norway electric cars are flying off the shelves. Why? Because in Norway there is no sales tax or road tax to pay on EVs and in cities, including Oslo, parking and charging — via a comprehensive citywide infrastructure — is free.

Best of all you can drive in the bus lanes, improving commuting times significantly. Consequently Nissan's electric Leaf has been selling very well there.

Helped by its conventional packaging, the compromises of Leaf ownership are very few. Which is why we were testing the new Leaf in Norway, because the Leaf and the city of Oslo represent one vision of an automobile future for all of us.

This 2013 Leaf model has been improved by increasing power and range and by moving the plug-in charging unit to the front of the car, increasing boot space by 40 litres.

The car is also lighter and has improved ride thanks to a retuned chassis tweaked for European tastes. The result is that this electric car has become more comfortable, practical and fun. In fact it's more conventionally car-like, which can only be a good thing.

Inside the Nissan Leaf you'll find five seats, five doors, and plenty of smart storage throughout. Plus all the high tech gadgets you would expect from a car this innovative, like Bluetooth connectivity, Nissan intelligent key with push button start, and a USB connection port for iPods and other compatible devices.

The 2013 Nissan Leaf

- **Type.** Four-door
- **Engines (hp).** 80 kW electric motor (109PS of power)
- **Range for one charge.** 199km
- **Emissions.** 0g/km
- **Base price (incl. destination)** $31,698 to $38,398 depending on the package

Interior

Now available in more conventional black trim instead of beige, the interior is familiar yet futuristic; a clever mix of comfort with cool blue accents and icons to remind you you're a trendsetter.

Performance

Zippy, comfortable and quiet, this kind of progress feels efficient and fun. The new Leaf feels faster than its 0 to 100 km/h time of 11.5 seconds suggests.

Design

The refinements are subtle, so the styling remains divisive and is not to everyone's taste. In other words, it's kind of funny looking.

With the charger port now at the front there is even more room in the trunk.

The 80 kW electric motor is under the hood.

• Biggest plus
Knowing you will rarely have to deal with gas stations. Or pay for fuel for that matter. The charging speed has been halved too.

•Biggest flaw
The steering doesn't feel fantastically responsive at speed, though around town this translates into below-average manoeuvrability.

The interior is very familiar but also futuristic.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
As Mars moves into the dynamic sign of Leo today, your energy and confidence will surge. Yes, all things are possible but that does not mean you have to try to do it all at the same time.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You should make an effort to convince loved ones that you are still on their side. Why might they doubt you? Because you have been strangely uncommunicative of late.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Don't stop to analyze your motives: act while the passion is hot. One bold move could be all it takes today to start the ball rolling in your favour again.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
There are major opportunities heading your way but are you in the right frame of mind to take advantage of them? Take an hour out of your busy schedule today to get your head back in the right place.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The world needs people who are willing to take a risk and with Mars moving into your sign today, it's you. Don't wait to be told to do what you feel is right — self-belief is all the permission you need.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Although the Sun and Mercury are boosting your confidence in a big way, other influences suggest you may have to be on your guard for secret enemies over the next few days. You can't be too careful.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Others may be raving about a new fad but you have your doubts it is as good as they think it is. Don't be afraid to take an opposing view. Your judgment is sound.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You seem even more ambitious than usual now and you will certainly not be inclined to settle for second best. You may have to fight it out with an equally ambitious rival but it will be a one-sided battle.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The next few days will see a big change in the way you look at an event. You will begin to realize that you have only part of the story and the missing parts are of huge significance.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It may seem as if you are out of touch with the feelings of those around you but that's OK. You are who you are and don't have to act in ways that don't come naturally to you.

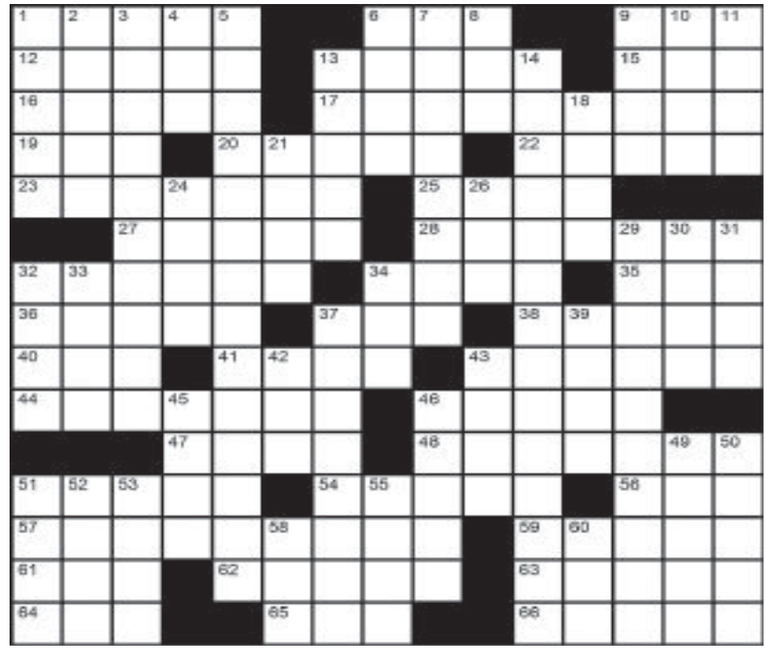
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are in the middle of a creative phase and anything of an artistic nature will go well for you over the next few days. This is an especially good time to learn a new skill. What do you dream of doing?

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Tough decisions must be made and you must expect some people to be less than happy with what you decide. That's too bad. If they had acted sooner, it would not be down to you to put things right. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

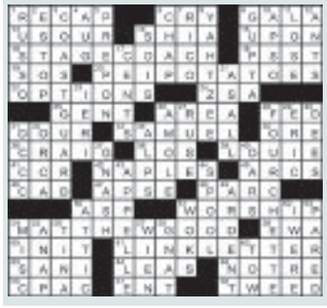
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Weightlifter's pride
6. US speed meas.
9. Mr. Tolkien
12. Originated
13. 1988 Summer Olympics locale
15. Farm song vowels
16. Sub instrument
17. Turntable artists, e.g.: 2 wds.
19. Bill [abbr.]
20. Menu clickees
22. Leaf's lines
23. Derelict building, perhaps
25. Froster
27. Connecting points
28. '60s song: "__ and Clover"
32. Detect
34. Move like a hummingbird
35. Green Day drummer, __ Cool
36. Corn chip bag's one-of-some
37. Actress Charlotte
38. Nancy of "Entertainment Tonight"
40. Virgo's predecessor
41. Storage space
43. Fawn
44. Gave to charity
46. Birth a bovine
47. Enthusiastic, __ ho
48. Finds one's positioning
51. Cook, this way
54. Larks about
56. Small photograph
57. National symbol: 2 wds.
59. Laura Branigan hit that goes "God how I love you so.": 2 wds.
61. Paranormal power, briefly
62. Fatty, as some meat
63. Metal bar
64. 'Govern' suffix (Jane Eyre's job)
65. Outs opposites
66. Wedding cake layers

Down
1. Jazz great, Count __ (b.1904 - d.1984)
2. Tale's twist
3. Metro Toronto __ Centre
4. Conductor, __-Pekka Salonen
5. Historical reenactment garbs: 2 wds.
6. Chow __
7. Freezie alternative
8. "I dunno?"
9. "Return of the __" (1983)
10. Dutch artist, Rembrandt van __
11. Supreme singer Diana
13. Some footwear
14. 1) Stay-after-the-reno 2) Sell-and-go ...choices for homeowners on this Canadian series: 5 wds.
18. Salon style, shortly
21. First Nation of Manitoba
24. And __ goes (Thusly): 2 wds.
26. Heartfelt protest, __ de coeur
29. Ed Robertson's co-songwriter on many hits: 2 wds.
30. Heraldic wreath
31. Foster flick
32. St. John's locale, for short
33. Common crossword cookie
34. Trend
37. Handyman character played by Canadian comedian Steve Smith: 2 wds.
39. Peace bird
42. Egg layer
43. "The World According to __" (1982)
45. "Tutti Frutti" bit: Got _ __ named Daisy..."
46. Snug
49. Indian Ocean arm, __ Sea
50. Mary, Queen of __
51. Captain Hook's sidekick
52. Itar-__ (Russian news agency)
53. Actor, Omar __
55. Feedbag bits
58. Him, in Paris
60. Pasta names suffix

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	7						9	
		6		1		5		
1	9						3	2
		5	1	9	6	4		
		9	8	5	4	7		
8	3						4	6
		4		2		3		
	1						8	

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	5	4	6	9	1	2	7
9	7	6	2	1	5	3	4	8
2	1	4	7	8	3	9	6	5
4	6	9	8	2	7	5	1	3
1	5	8	3	4	6	7	9	2
3	2	7	5	9	1	4	8	6
7	8	1	9	3	2	6	5	4
5	9	2	6	7	4	8	3	1
6	4	3	1	5	8	2	7	9

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